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Title:
Speech opening Naracoorte Abattoirs

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, OPENING NARACOOORTE ABATTOIRS.

3.2.74

MR FRY, MY MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, YOUR WORSHIPS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY AND GIVING ME MY
FIRST OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR TO GET BACK TO THE SOUTH EAST. IT'S
A CHANCE I ALWAYS GRAB WHENEVER I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY.

THERE'S NO DOUBT THE COMPLETION OF THIS \$1.5M. PROJECT WILL BE A
MAJOR STIMULUS TO THE ECONOMY OF THE SOUTH EAST IN GENERAL AND THE
NARACOOORTE AREA IN PARTICULAR. IT PROVIDES JOBS FOR SOME 90
PEOPLE NOW WITH THE PROSPECT OF THE WORKFORCE GOING UP TO 200
LATER. FOR OUR PART, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO HELP GET IT OFF THE GROUND WITH LICENSING
ARRANGEMENTS AND THE PROVISION OF HOUSING.

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AND IT'S A CONVINCING DEMONSTRATION BOTH OF THE ENTERPRISE OF
SOUTH EAST BUSINESSMEN AND PRIMARY PRODUCERS AND OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN THIS AREA.
THIS WAS, IN FACT, COMMENTED ON BY THE CONSULTANTS WHOSE REPORT
INTO THE RATIONALISATION OF LIVESTOCK MARKETING IN THIS AREA WAS
PUBLISHED A FEW DAYS AGO.

THIS IS WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

"THE SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT AND OPENING UP OF LARGE AREAS
OF COUNTRY IN THE SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN
ONE OF THE TRUE SUCCESS STORIES IN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE
SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

LARGE TRACTS OF COUNTRY, WHICH WERE FORMERLY CONSIDERED
PRACTICALLY USELESS, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO PRODUCTION BY
CLEARING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPROVED PASTURE SPECIES;

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ALSO, THE AREAS OF BETTER CLASS SOILS IN THE LOWER SOUTH EAST HAVE BEEN MADE MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE BY THE USE OF FERTILIZERS AND PERENNIAL GRASS SPECIES.....

WITH THE RETURN TO HIGH PRICES FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, ESPECIALLY IN THIS AREA WHICH HAS ONE OF THE MOST RELIABLE RAINFALL PATTERNS IN AUSTRALIA. "

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAINTAINING THIS MOMENTUM OF DEVELOPMENT ALONE, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST HAPPY TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO DO SO BECAUSE, FROM A BROADER ASPECT, IT FITS IN IDEALLY WITH OUR OVERALL PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST.

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AS MOST OF YOU WILL BE AWARE, LAST YEAR, WE PUT FORWARD A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE STATE STRESSING THE MAXIMUM OF DECENTRALISATION.

INTEGRAL TO THAT PROGRAM IS THE GROWTH OF THIS AREA - PART OF THE "GREEN TRIANGLE" AS IT HAS BEEN CALLED.

SINCE THEN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN DONE. A WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN MAKING INITIAL STUDIES OF THE LIKELY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF INDUSTRY IN THIS REGION. ITS REPORT IS NOW NEARLY COMPLETE.

AS THE NECESSARY NEXT STEP, CABINET LAST WEEK DECIDED TO SET UP A SPECIAL LIAISON GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO REPORT TO THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE OVERALL IMPLICATIONS AND STRATEGIES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH CENTRES. THE GROUP WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE, THROUGH THE MINISTER, FOR APPROACHES TO THE COMMONWEALTH FOR SUPPORT.

IN ALL THIS WE ARE QUITE CONSCIOUSLY MAKING HASTE SLOWLY.

I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED OF THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF THIS AREA IN TERMS OF PURELY ECONOMIC GROWTH AND AS A SUPERB ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO LIVE. IF WE ARE TO ENSURE THAT WE SET DESIRED TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DISRUPTION TO THE VERY THINGS WHICH MAKE IT SO PLEASANT TO LIVE HERE NOW IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE THE MOST CAREFUL, THOUGHTFUL AND EXPERT PLANNING. THE METHODS NOW BEING FOLLOWED WILL, I BELIEVE, ACHIEVE THIS.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF OTHER POINTS I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE ON THIS GENERAL THEME.

WE HAVE DEFINED THE "GREEN TRIANGLE" AS THE AREA CONTAINING MOUNT GAMBIER, MILLICENT, NARACOORTE AND PENOLA. BUT IT MAY WELL BE THAT AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH ATTRACTS COMMONWEALTH BACKING OF THE LEVEL REQUIRED WOULD ALSO EMBRACE SOUTH WESTERN VICTORIA.

WE WOULD WELCOME THAT. STATE BOUNDARIES GENERALLY IN AUSTRALIA ARE ARCHAIC. THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT HERE WITH THE OBVIOUS COMMUNITY OF INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. OUR CONCERN AS THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS, BY DEFINITION, WITHIN THIS STATE. BUT WE WOULD HAPPILY JOIN OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OR REGIONAL PROGRAMS TRANSCENDING FORMAL STATE BOUNDARIES WHERE THIS IS IN THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE HERE. IN SAYING THIS I'M SURE THAT I HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF NARACOORTE AND THE OTHER TOWNS OF THE SOUTH EAST. INDEED, ALL THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THIS ABATTOIR ARE WELL AWARE OF THE INTER-DEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN VICTORIA. IN ADDITION, IN PLANNING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WE MUST TAKE IMMENSE PAINS NOW ACCURATELY TO ESTIMATE AND PROPERLY TO CONSERVE THE AREA'S NATURAL RESOURCES, NOTABLY THAT OF WATER.

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE WATER RESOURCES OF THIS AREA CAN SUPPORT A POPULATION OF AT LEAST 250,000, BUT WE ARE UNDERTAKING A SERIES OF STUDIES TO ENSURE THAT WE PLAN CONSERVATIVELY, IN THE PROPER SENSE OF THAT WORD, WITHIN KNOWN CAPACITY. THE LATEST STAGE IN THIS RESEARCH WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES OF A GRID OF WATER OBSERVATION BORES IN THE KEITH-BORDERTOWN DISTRICT. THE COST WILL BE SOME \$88,000 - A SOUND INVESTMENT IN DETERMINING THE LONG TERM WATER RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH EAST. FINALLY ON THIS GENERAL TOPIC, MAY I ADDRESS A SPECIAL WORD TO THE INDUSTRIALISTS OF THE SOUTH EAST. THE GOVERNMENT'S GREATLY EXPANDED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WORK OBVIOUSLY HAS AS ONE OF ITS AIMS THE ATTRACTION OF NEW INDUSTRY, THUS PROVIDING MORE STABLE EMPLOYMENT.

IT IS VITAL TO THE WELLBEING OF THIS AND OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE. BUT I SAY 'ONE OF ITS AIMS' DELIBERATELY. THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION IS ALSO CONCERNED TO SERVICE EXISTING INDUSTRY HERE, TO MAKE IT MORE SOUND WITH THE SAME OVERALL GOAL OF INCREASED AND MORE STABLE JOBS. SO I HOPE THAT INDUSTRIALISTS HERE, IN THE MEAT PROCESSING, SOFTWOODS, TEXTILE OR OTHER FIELDS, WON'T HESITATE TO APPROACH US FOR HELP IF THEY SEE NEW OPPORTUNITIES. WE HOPE, TOO, TO APPROACH THEM WITH IDEAS FROM TIME TO TIME. AGAIN MAY I CONGRATULATE MR FRY AND HIS TEAM ON THEIR SPLENDID EFFORT IN GETTING THIS PROJECT STARTED - ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE IN THE SHORT TIME IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN DONE. THE FACILITIES ARE FIRST CLASS AND IS OBVIOUSLY A DEVELOPMENT OF BENEFIT NOT ONLY TO NARACORTE BUT TO THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A WHOLE. I HAVE VERY MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING IT OPEN.